Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 SEC-01 OES-06 L-03 EB-07

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIE-00 CU-02 INRE-00 /047 R

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FAS:RNEETZ

APHIS:JHEJL (BY PHONE)

FAS:DLHUME

SEC:RBELL

FAS:ERBEVIS

EPENSIVY: APHIS (BY PHONE)

OES/APT/SEP:WDECLERQ(INFO)

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TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: M/A

TAGS: EAGR, OEXC, OSCI, HU

SUBJECT: U.S.-HUNGARIAN ANIMAL HEALTH AGREEMENT

REF: BUDAPEST 3231

1. USDA ALSO UNAWARE OF PLANS TO SIGN A QTE PLANT AND ANIMAL PROTECTION AGREEMENT UNQTE.

2. DR. PAL VIGH, AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE, HUNGARIAN EMBASSY, DELIVERED LETTER CONCERNING SUBJECT AGREEMENT TO USDA JUNE 24. LETTER FROM DR. LAJOS DENES, HEAD OF HUNGARIAN VETERINARY SERVICE ADDRESSED TO DR.JOHN

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M. HEJL, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR VETERINARY SERVICES, APHIS, USDA,

TRANSMITTED HUNGARIAN DRAFT OF PROPOSED QTE ANIMAL HEALTH AGREEMENT UNQTE FOR CONSIDERATION BY USDA.

3. HUNGARIAN PROPOSAL IS SO BROAD THAT IT WOULD CONTRAVENE EXISTING STATUTES AND REGULATIONS (E.G., IMPORTATION FROM HUNGARY OF RUMINANTS,

SWINE, AND FRESH, CHILLED, OR FROZEN MEAT OF SUCH ANIMALS IS ABSOLUTELY

PROHIBITED BY SECTION 306(A) OF TARIFF ACT OF 1930). THERE IS NO AUTHORITY FOR SPECIAL AGREEMENTS OVER AND BEYOND THOSE PROVIDED FOR BY

STATUTE AND REGULATIONS.

4. HUNGARIAN VETERINARY AUTHORITIES HAVE DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF ANIMAL HEALTH REGULATIONS WITH APHIS/USDA VETERINARIANS AND PRESUMABLY ARE WELL AWARE OF STRINGENT U.S. LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON VETERINARY, ANIMAL

HEALTH, AND SANITATION SUBJECTS. HUNGARIAN DRAFT VIEWED AS FISHING EXPEDITION TO LEARN HOW FAR USDA WOULD GO IN ACCOMMODATING HUNGARIAN DESIRE TO EXPAND EXPORT OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS TO U.S.

5. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR AN EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION REGARDING ANIMAL DISEASES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND HUNGARY SIMILAR TO THAT RECENTLY CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND POLAND.

6. REPORTS THAT USDA PREPARED TO SIGN PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH PROTECTION COOPERATION AGREEMENT APPARENTLY EMANATED FROM AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE VIGH. USDA HAS INFORMED VIGH ONLY RPT ONLY THAT DENES' LETTER WAS FORWARDED TO HEJL, APHIS, AND THAT HUNGARIAN PROPOSAL WAS UNDER REVIEW BY APPROPRIATE USDA AUTHORITIES.

7. IF MINISTER ROMANY RAISES SUBJECT OF QTE ANIMAL HEALTH AGREEMENT UNQTE, SECRETARY BUTZ WILL REITERATE WILLINGNESS USDA SCIENTISTS TO DISCUSS PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARIAN COUNTERPARTS. THE SECRETARY WILL NOTE THAT ANY SUCH AGREEMENTS MUST BE WITHIN AUTHORITY GRANTED BY EXISTING STATUES AND REGULATIONS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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8. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE DRAW ON ABOVE TO FORMULATE RESPONSE TO HUNGARIAN MIN AGR NOTING FOLLOWING POINTS:
(A) USDA DISAVOWS RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORT THAT USG NOW READY TO SIGN AGREEMENT; (B) USDA COULD ENTERTAIN POSSIBILITY OF CONCLUDING AGREEMENT ON EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON ANIMAL DISEASES (FYI, THIS WOULD BE, BY AND LARGE, A COSMETIC AGREEMENT--ANY

ACTIVITIES UNDER THE AGREEMENT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT); (C) USDA SCIENTISTS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARIAN COUNTERPARTS; AND (D) ANY SUCH AGREEMENT MUST BE WITHIN AUTHORITY GRANTED BY EXISTING U.S. STATUES AND REGULATIONS. ROBINSON

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